

IQC Committee (11/19/15)

Public Comment submitted by Will Parish (edited for written submission)

Hello Commissioners. I'm Will Parish from San Francisco, teacher, emeritus member of the IQC, and member of Superintendent Torlakson's Environmental Literacy Task Force that produced the Blueprint for environmental literacy.

I am Founder President of Ten Strands, the non-profit organization working with CDE, Cal/EPA, the CA Natural Resources Agency and other stakeholders to assure all students in California's schools are environmentally literate.

The Blueprint for Environmental Literacy, will assure how our students can have: "the capacity to act individually and with others to support ecologically sound, economically prosperous, and equitable communities for present and future generations."

We are very pleased to see how the commission has incorporated the state's Environmental Principles and Concepts into the History Social Science Framework, similar to what the IQC did with the Science framework.

I would like to add my request that the IQC recommend the revised draft chapters of the *History–Social Science Framework for California Public Schools (HSS Framework)* to the State Board of Education for full approval.

Thank you very much.

Appendix:

Using the environment as an integrating context provides a context that achieves many of the goals involved in the HSS Framework.

Framing HSS topics through the lens of the environment that everyone has to share, offers a way to encourage the development of critical-thinking skills through relevant, environment-based material.

I look forward to continuing to work with the IQC as our state moves toward bringing environmental literacy to all students through: 1) instructional materials for the classroom that increase relevancy to students by connecting topics to *their* environment; 2) teachers working closely with educators outside the classroom including after school providers; 3) the support and collaboration of a broad cross-section of the state including parents, community members, and leaders from higher education and state organizations; and 4) adequate funding resources from the private sector, philanthropy and government.

Thank you.